

When did copyright become more important than free speech?
Regarding NPRM 02-230: It has serious first Amendment (Free Speech) problems. The idea that only "Professional" entities can create content is outrageous. In terms of free speech, it is much like taking away the printing presses from individuals and making it illegal to own or create or import a printing press. Not all content is created by multimedia corporations. You seem to be forgetting/ignoring this fact.

In regards to Copyright: Please remember that the purpose of copyright is to promote commerce and innovation, not prohibit the possibility of it to all but a few select members of society.

I suggest that you scrap NPRM 02-230. I for one can do without digital television if it means that my computer is crippled/bugged, that I can't use GNU software without threat of prosecution, that I can't create and distribute my own content and that my rights of fair use are trumped. I doubt that I am alone in this view.

I believe that if you pass NPRM 02-230 in its current form, it won't survive for very long. It has serious first Amendment and possibly fourth Amendment problems. Many parts of NPRM 02-230 also fall outside of the mandate of the FCC.

-Edward Askins

P.S. Under the freedom of information act, I would like the list of corporations who lobbied for FCC NPRM 02-230 in its current form.